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Your Voice, Your Community

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Floretta Lauber - Photo by Terry Miller

## I'm Not Your Mother!

BY VON RAEES,  
PUBLISHER OF  
ARCADIA WEEKLY

On Aug. 22, 1996 we published the first issue of the Arcadia Weekly. It was an exciting and anxious time for us. The following week, while we worked in our single-room office on First Avenue in Arcadia, we had a visitor. A tall, elegant woman with the air of a powerful lioness walked in and, without any pleasantries, demanded to know "who's idea was it to get an office on the second floor of a building with no elevator?" She continued, "And, by the way, my name is Floretta Lauber, and I'm going to be your social columnist."

I didn't feel that I had a choice in the matter and in that moment I knew Floretta was someone who was going to have an impact. Of course, I said yes!

Most of you reading this who have had the unique pleasure of meeting or working with Floretta have probably experienced her energy and powerful presence. She quickly became a pillar on whose shoulders this organization grew and continues to thrive. That statement can be echoed throughout this community, as she was involved

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Arcadia's First Female Mayor,  
Floretta Lauber, 90, Passes Away

In 2011, Arcadia Mayor Gary Kovacic surprised Beacon Media's social columnist Floretta Lauber by proclaiming May 4, Floretta Lauber Day during a special ceremony at Arcadia Woman's Club.

- Photo by Terry Miller

BY TERRY MILLER

Floretta Lauber passed away peacefully in her beloved Arcadia on Aug. 1. A civic leader and community icon, Lauber began her City of Arcadia service in 1964 as a member of the personnel board and in 1965 was the first female appointed to Arcadia's Planning Commission, serving until

1973.

During this time she became a member of the San Gabriel Valley Planning Council and served as president from 1967 to 1969.

In 1974 she became the first woman to be elected to the Arcadia City Council and served as mayor in 1976.

Former Longtime Mayor and life-

long Arcadian Gary Kovacic said: "Floretta was a legendary figure in the life of Arcadia and will be long remembered for her many accomplishments and vibrant personality. She was the first woman to serve as a mayor of Arcadia, and her dedicated commitment to our beloved community will remain first in our thoughts."

Former Mayor George Fasching

summed it up succinctly by saying, "We lost a legend!"

Community members have flooded our offices with comments about Lauber, so we are sharing a few more here:

"I'm deeply saddened by the passing of this amazing woman and

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## City Council Revokes Three Massage Therapy Licenses

BY KATTA HULES

On March 31, Arcadia Spa was raided on suspicion of prostitution. Massage therapists Xinhong Huang and Ai Hong Li were

arrested. This week in front of city council, they and Bao Gui Sun, owner of Arcadia Spa, fought the revocation of their business licenses. Criminal charges are pending as is their sexual assault

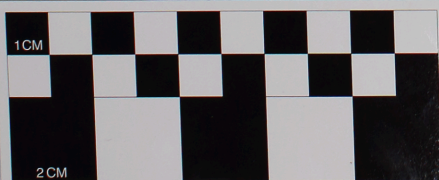
complaint against undercover detective Steve Castillo.

Sun, through interpreter Joseph Lee, alleged the police deleted exonerating statements in the investigation recording, disconnect-

ed the Spa's surveillance camera, denied them access to Castillo's records (an action upheld by the judge at the criminal hearing), and sexually assaulted his employees.

Huang and Li submitted written statements to the council. They claimed to reject the detective's alleged advances by saying "no" and

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## Floretta's Farewell

Continued from page 1

friend. Arcadia has lost a true legend. Floretta's dedication had no limits and her accomplishments were many and enduring. I believe that one of her greatest gifts to our community was her ability to mentor and encourage individuals to become involved in leadership positions throughout the city. Not only did she value and promote the importance of tradition, she was forward-thinking and knew that Arcadia's future lies in the hands of first-class leaders. I was blessed to know Floretta for over 40 years and I am going to truly miss her spirit and friendship," said Marilyn Daleo.

Another of Floretta's many friends, Arcadia City Clerk Gene Glasco, offered the following tribute: "I am deeply saddened by Monday's passing of Floretta Lauber, a dear friend and mentor. Floretta was Arcadia's first woman mayor and life-long community leader. She is an Arcadia icon who loved and served her city with energy and passion; a luminary who contributed innumerable and lasting accomplishments to the city and for the community of Arcadia. Besides her incredible forte for community activism, Floretta was a classy lady.

"Floretta was devoted to the people and City of Arcadia. What a glorious woman."  
- George Fasching



A five-year project from concept to completion, the 2,500-square-foot Arcadia History Museum Education center was officially dedicated Saturday, June 28, 2014. One of Lauber's proudest moments.

"Floretta made an indelible impression on just about anyone who spent more than two minutes in her presence. My memories of her caring and sometimes opinionated advice will never fade.

"May God bless her journey in the company of heaven's angels."

Council Member April

Verlato added, "I am so grateful for the many contributions of Floretta Lauber to the City of Arcadia. She was a trailblazer and inspiration as the first woman to serve on Arcadia's City Council and first woman to be mayor in 1976.

"No one questioned whether I could do the job

of serving on city council as a woman and a mother because Floretta had already proven it could be done.

"Thank you, Floretta, for all that you did for women in politics and for all residents of the City of Arcadia ..."

Floretta was well known in Arcadia for not only her civic contributions, but also

her tireless quest for stories for her Social Whirl Column that has appeared regularly in this newspaper throughout the past 20 years.

Floretta attended just about every social event in town and the column was wildly popular with Arcadia's highly-prominent social circuit.



Floretta Lauber at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Education Center in 2011.  
- Photos by Terry Miller

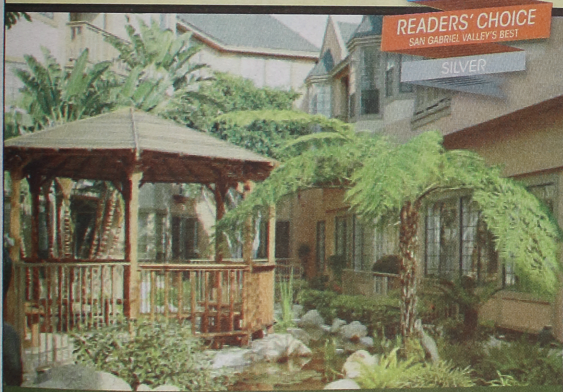
Please see  
Floretta's obit on  
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